



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

*PO Box 47990 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7990*

December 8, 2003

Mary Selecky  
Secretary of the Department of Health  
1112 SE Quince Street  
PO Box 47890  
Olympia, WA 98504-7890

Dear Secretary Selecky,

As you know, the Washington State Board of Health adopted revisions to the Newborn Screening rule Chapter 246-650 WAC at our October 15, 2003, meeting in Yakima. Although newborn hearing screening was not among the five new disorders included in the revisions to the Newborn Screening rule Chapter 246-650 WAC, it remains very important to the Board.

Accordingly, the Board asked that I write to support the Department of Health's continued efforts to track newborn hearing rates and to encourage hospitals to voluntarily implement universal newborn hearing screening. This motion was approved unanimously.

Please keep the Board updated on newborn hearing rates and on the Department of Health's progress in encouraging hospitals to implement universal newborn hearing screening on a voluntary basis. It is among the newborn screening issues we plan to revisit with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Linda Lake", followed by a vertical red line.

Linda Lake, Chair  
State Board of Health

cc: Washington State Board of Health